

CLAIMS

1. A method of matching one or more structured descriptions, the method including the steps of:
 - 5 a. detecting a context reflecting an environment in which the matching is to occur;
 - b. matching the detected context to a concept list appropriate to the detected context;
 - c. using the concept list to transform the one or more structured descriptions into reduced structured descriptions;
 - 10 d. matching the one or more reduced structured descriptions; and
 - e. providing an output representing the matching between the structured descriptions.
2. A method of matching one or more structured descriptions, the method including the steps of:
 - 15 a. detecting a context reflecting an environment in which the matching is to occur;
 - b. using the detected context to transform the one or more structured descriptions into reduced structured descriptions;
 - c. matching the one or more reduced structured descriptions; and
 - 20 d. providing an output representing the matching between the structured descriptions.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the concept list corresponds to a structured list of concepts and keywords related to a specified context.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 3 wherein one or more of the structured descriptions is reduced by matching keywords in one or more of the structured descriptions with keywords in the concept list and the removing any unmatched keyword concepts from the corresponding structured description.
5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the context determination is based on measurement of a physical location in which the matching is to occur, direct reception of data indicating the context or statistical analysis of characteristics of the environment in which the matching is to occur.
6. A method of simplifying a structured description including the steps of:
 - a. detecting a context reflecting an environment in which the simplification is to occur;
 - b. matching the detected context to a concept list appropriate to the detected context;
 - c. using the concept list to transform the one or more structured descriptions into reduced structured descriptions.
7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the wherein the concept list corresponds to a structured list of concepts and keywords related to a specified context.
8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein one or more of the structured descriptions is reduced by matching keywords in one or more of the structured descriptions with keywords in the concept list and the removing any unmatched keyword concepts from the corresponding structured description.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the transformation process preserves relevant hierarchical structure in the structured description by pruning the keyword tree to remove unmatched keywords while preserving the remaining structure of the description.
- 5 10. A method as claimed in either claim 1 or 6 wherein one or more of the structured descriptions and the concept list are defined according to dissimilar ontologies, the method further including the steps of converting one or more of the structured descriptions and the concept list to a common ontology prior to matching or reduction of the structured descriptions.
- 10 11. A method as claimed in either claim 2 wherein one or more of the structured descriptions are defined according to dissimilar ontologies, the method further including the steps of converting one or more of the structured descriptions to a common ontology prior to matching or reduction of the structured descriptions.
12. A computer system adapted to carry out the method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 15 11.
13. A system for matching one or more structured descriptions including:
- a. means for detecting a context or receiving a detected context, reflecting an environment in which the matching is to occur;
 - b. matching means adapted to match the detected context to a concept list appropriate to the detected context stored in a context database;
 - c. an edit engine adapted to use the concept list to transform the one or more structured descriptions into reduced structured descriptions;
 - d. matching means adapted to match the one or more reduced structured descriptions; and
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- e. output means adapted to provide an output representing the matching between the structured descriptions.

14. A method of facilitating the matching one or more structured descriptions, the method including the steps of:

- 5 a. receiving a detected context reflecting an environment in which the matching is to occur;
- b. matching the detected context to a concept list appropriate to the detected context;
- c. using the concept list to transform the one or more structured descriptions
10 into reduced structured descriptions;
- d. matching the one or more reduced structured descriptions; and
- e. providing an output representing the matching between the structured descriptions.

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